

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Small Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
 14307-4

Total Pages in this Submission
 115

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Mail Stop Patent Application
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application for an invention entitled:

TRANSPEDICULAR INTERVERTEBRAL DISK ACCESS METHODS AND DEVICES

and invented by:

Samuel M. SHAOLIAN et al.

15535 U.S. PTO
 10/606409
 06/25/03

If a **CONTINUATION APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: 10/420,422

Which is a:

Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: PCT/US03/09285

Which claims the benefit of United States Provisional Patent Application 60/424,942

Continuation Divisional Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: _____

Enclosed are:

Application Elements

1. Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
2. Specification having 57 pages and including the following:
 - a. Descriptive Title of the Invention
 - b. Cross References to Related Applications (*if applicable*)
 - c. Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development (*if applicable*)
 - d. Reference to Sequence Listing, a Table, or a Computer Program Listing Appendix
 - e. Background of the Invention
 - f. Brief Summary of the Invention
 - g. Brief Description of the Drawings (*if filed*)
 - h. Detailed Description
 - i. Claim(s) as Classified Below
 - j. Abstract of the Disclosure

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Application Elements (Continued)

3. Drawing(s) (when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)
 - a. Formal Number of Sheets 41
 - b. Informal Number of Sheets _____
4. Oath or Declaration
 - a. Newly executed (*original or copy*) Unexecuted
 - b. Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (*for continuation/divisional application only*)
 - c. With Power of Attorney Without Power of Attorney
 - d. DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. Incorporation By Reference (*usable if Box 4b is checked*)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
6. CD ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
7. Application Data Sheet (See 37 CFR 1.76)
8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (*if applicable, all must be included*)
 - a. Computer Readable Form (CFR)
 - b. Specification Sequence Listing on:
 - i. CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
 - ii. Paper
 - c. Statement(s) Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

Accompanying Application Parts

9. Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. 37 CFR 3.73(B) Statement (when there is an assignee)
11. English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449 Copies of IDS Citations
13. Preliminary Amendment
14. Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)
15. Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
16. Certificate of Mailing
 First Class Express Mail (*Specify Label No.*): EV 247105211 US

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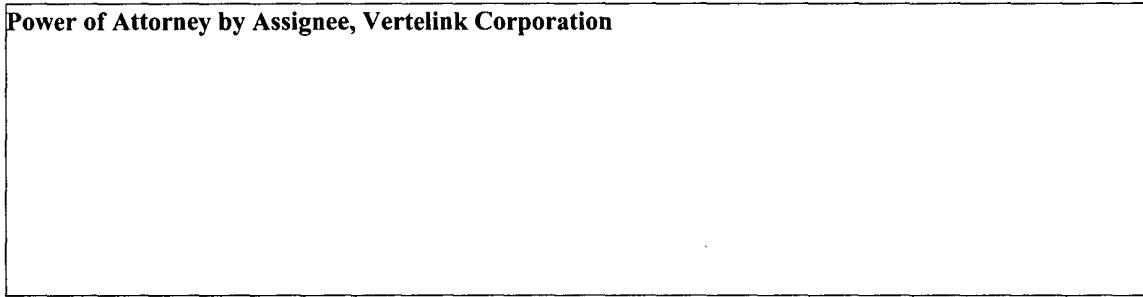
Total Pages in this Submission
115

Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)

17. Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.
 (Optional) Small Entity Statement(s) - Specify Number of Statements Submitted: _____

18. Additional Enclosures (please identify below):

Power of Attorney by Assignee, Vertelink Corporation



Request That Application Not Be Published Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)

19. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2), Applicant hereby requests that this patent application not be published pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(1). Applicant hereby certifies that the invention disclosed in this application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing of the application.

Warning

An applicant who makes a request not to publish, but who subsequently files in a foreign country or under a multilateral international agreement specified in 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i), must notify the Director of such filing not later than 45 days after the date of the filing of such foreign or international application. A failure of the applicant to provide such notice within the prescribed period shall result in the application being regarded as abandoned, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in submitting the notice was unintentional.

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1364
06/25/03
U.S. PTO

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Fee Calculation and Transmittal

CLAIMS AS FILED

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	17	- 20 =	0	x \$9.00	\$0.00
Indep. Claims	1	- 3 =	0	x \$42.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>				\$0.00
				BASIC FEE	\$375.00
OTHER FEE (specify purpose)					\$0.00
				TOTAL FILING FEE	\$375.00

A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
 The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 19-2090 as described below.
 Charge the amount of \$375.00 as filing fee.
 Credit any overpayment.
 Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
 Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).

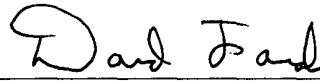
Dated: June 25, 2003



23676

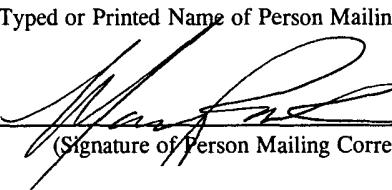
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

cc: Vertelink Corporation


Signature

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10)			Docket No. 14307-4
Serial No. To be assigned	Filing Date June 25, 2003	Examiner To be assigned	Group Art Unit To be assigned
Inventor(s): SHAOLIAN, Samuel M. et al.			
Invention: "Transpedicular Intervertebral Disk Access Methods and Devices"			
<p>I hereby certify that the following correspondence:</p> <p>1. Utility Patent Application Transmittal (Small Entity) (4 pages) 2. United States Patent Application (54 pages Disclosure, 2 pages Claims and 1 page Abstract) 3. 41 Sheets of Drawings (Figures 1-54) 4. Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney executed by the five inventors (4 pages) 5. Power of Attorney by Assignee Vertelink Corporation (1 page) 6. Assignments of Rights executed by the five Inventors (2 pages each, 10 pages total) 7. Recordation Form Cover Sheet 8. Acknowledgment Postcard</p> <p>is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: <u>June 25, 2003</u> (Date)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ Marilyn Paik (Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____  (Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">EV247105211US</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ EV 247105211 US ("Express Mail" Mailing Label No.)</p>			